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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

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1. Most of the Overseas Chinese in Indochina come from Kwangtung and Kwangsi provinces. Those from Kwangtung keep the customs of their homeland while those from Kwangsi have practically the same habits of living as the natives of Indochina. There are about 100,000 Overseas Chinese in Hanoi and Haiphong, and about 70,000 in Viet Minh territory. Those who live in northern Indochina have been generally assimilated, do not understand Chinese, and know very little about their mother country.
2. The Vietnamese hated the Chinese because of the French "crooked policy" of the past and because of the "self-pride" of the Overseas Chinese. CHIANG Kai-shek's troops gave the Vietnamese a very bad impression. There has, however, been a substantial change in attitude since the war. Generally speaking, the Vietnamese are not interested in Chinese politics.
3. Many Chinese came to northern Indochina after the Japanese defeat. Those in the Kwangsi-Kwangtung border areas maintained their arms. Activities among the Overseas Chinese have drawn the attention of the central authority of the Communists in Indochina as well as that of the Viet Nam Government which has an "Overseas Chinese Affairs Department" to deal with such activities.
4. With these activities in view, the main function of this year is to arm the Overseas Chinese. There are at present more than one thousand armed Chinese in the Haiphong area. A battalion (ta tui) has been formed in the northwest. This is a bright sign for Indochina because there are more than 1,600 armed Overseas Chinese who are co-operating with the Viet Minh in northern Indochina.
5. The Central Authority of Viet Nam has agreed that the Overseas Chinese should temporarily enjoy the same rights of land tenure as the Vietnamese. The most important function between the Chinese and Vietnamese is to co-operate and fight against the French.
6. Racial prejudice, the question of sovereignty rights, the Communist special

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service activities, and the national spirit of Viet Nam, have affected the co-operation of both the Chinese and the Communists in Indochina. These are the handicaps of the "diplomatic operation."

7. There are about 50,000 Overseas Chinese in the 11th War District with a local government of their own under high authority of the Vietnamese Government. Agricultural and other associations have been organized by them.

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